

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lately dead:
Michael Smith
May he rest in peace



Christmas Masses

24th December

3pm, 6pm 10pm at St Thomas
The Mass in Chigwell will be at 10pm. (Please accept our apologies as there was a mistake in the last week's newsletter)

25th December

8.30am, 10am & 11.30am St Thomas
10am Chigwell

Christmas Masses

The rota for all the Christmas masses is displayed at the back of the church, please take a look before leaving mass to see what duties you have been assigned.

We are still **looking for help** at some of the masses, but in particular for the 10am mass on Christmas Day, in particular for: Ministers of Communion and Ushers – this is a very well attended mass and we need to ensure that it is a safe environment, with the help of sufficient Ushers, and runs smoothly and reverentially, with the help of sufficient Ministers of Communion.

If you can help, please add your name to the rota.

May we wish you all a joyous Christmas and a happy new year

Aniversaries:

Arthur Bailey, John (Jack) Kenny, Sister Marian Dewhirst, Margaret Waites, Damiana D'Costa, Leslie Graham, Paul Shipperlee, Albert Currie, Margaret McHugh, George Cowan, Romei Guisto, Michael Linnane, Ellen Mahoney, Annie O'Brien, Michael Murphy, Mary Atwell, James Martin, John Moore, John Newman, Narishta Ratnanather, Michael Carrig, Colin Correya, Anne Driscoll, Patrick Grant, Chevonne Lobo, Mary Deima, Andrew Jeffreys, Margaret Mason, Malachy Seymour, John Bailey, Anne Connolly, Annie Galligan, Fredrick Hayes, Rose Neville, Pauline Goodsman, Derek Blogg, Angelo de Cesare, Frank Dewey, Francis Fitzpatrick, Sylvia Hawkins, Doris Skelt, Teresa Brownlow, Mary Dooley, Patrick Duggan, Fr Austin Kinsella, Giuseppe Pallottolo, Domenico Villacci, Julia Zykun, Bridget Craven, Gabrielle Daye, Maureen Dodsley, Cynthia Haskins, Mary Hendry, Sr. Paul McDonald, Elsie Albrecht, Alexander Borg, Margaret Durcan, Eufemia Mastroddi, Daniel O'Halloran, Martha Spencer, Ermelinda Trotta, Ernest Turpin, Beatrice Balmer, Mary Black, Theo Carver, Elizabeth Voisey, Sister Michael Cleary, Kelly Hugh, Phyllis Kinsella, Jordan Farrell, Mary Flynn, Nora Gallagher, Edward Haliburn, Minnie Nash, Sean Connolly, HARRY Donovan, Ersilia Fazzani, Frank O'Shea, Patricia Tish, Jacqueline Da'Prato, James Hopkins, Kathleen Johnson, Ann Maher, Kathleen Naismith, Mary Spillane,

Please note:

The Parish Office will be closed due to leave / Bank Holidays during the following period: Tuesday 24th December 2024 to 3rd January 2025
We will re-open on Monday 6th January 2025.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686
Friary: 020 8504 1688



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
Facebook: @STOCWoodford
Twitter: @STOCWoodford

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C) 22nd December 2024

Please note the nearest Fire Exit to you whilst you are in the Church

As we continue our Advent preparations, we gather today to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ at Christmas, giving thanks for all that we have received, and committing ourselves to pass on the Gospel message to all we meet.

First Reading Micah 5:1-4

Jesus, born in Bethlehem (the "House of Bread") was to become the Bread of Life for all humankind.

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Christ is here to replace the Law's sacrifices and holocausts with a simple trust in the Father. God prefers our trust and our service to our unthinking actions and "sacrificial offerings".

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb and in her heart, visits her cousin Elizabeth. We too are called to bring Christ to all we encounter and, in the same way, all those we meet bring Christ to us.

Responsorial Psalm

Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved



The next newsletter will be produced for Sunday 12th January

CHRISTMAS GREETING



Peace on earth to people of good will! If you follow the news in recent times, that message is not being heard or put into practice. Many nations are at war with each other and trouble is brewing where actual war is not being prosecuted. There does not seem to be substantial talks taking place to remedy the conflict.

Within our Country the NHS is in trouble with access the GPs less available. There are reports that the school system is in trouble as many parents have lost confidence in schools and are 'home schooling their children.' Our prisons are full and not working so the answer is to build more of them. What is at stake is our hanging together as a society. I hope I am not being too cheerful!

Our faith gives us the responsibility and power to do something, however small, that bucks this trend of falling apart. The message God gives us at Christmas is that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. The coming of the Son of God into His Creation is a message of renewal or re-creation.

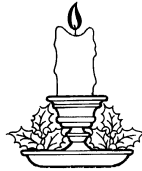
'Behold I make all things new'

is what the glorified Christ says in the Book of Revelation.

How does that happen? It is through the people God has renewed through baptism by giving them a share in His energy of love. The power we have as Christians is the same power that Christ exercised in His ministry. Crowds flocked to Him because unlike the religious and secular leaders of the time, He was attractive because He loved them.

Our community as a Parish, has the aim of being so helpful and understanding of each other that it presents an alternative for people. It should not be a closed self-satisfied group but a welcoming group. I think our Christmas Fayre was a joyful happy community event with people working and sharing together. Our young Vinnies are showing the beginning of a community of service and friendship. Together we can, though we are aware of the darkness, light a candle of hope this Christmas.

***Happy Christmas
from Father Michael
and the Friars.***



Christmas Fayre—Correction

A bit like Father Christmas checking the naughty and nice list twice!, we have checked all amounts received from the recent fayre and the amount raised has increased to £3757.50 . We also want to take this opportunity to thank those businesses who sponsored a raffle prize. A big thanks to Featherbeats Gym, Soulful Yoga, Rabbit & Star Toy Shop and Woodford Green Undertakers.

Baptism Congratulations

To the following children who were recently baptised
Marni Natafdi, Lorenzo Estanislao-Salac, Bradley Richardson & Brandon Richardson

Our next Baptism course for first time parents will take place on 19th & 26th February. Application forms can be found on the website.

Mass Intentions



Sunday 22nd December

8.30 Jane Bandon intention
10 Mary Ndoping, Paience Ndi
11.30 Yvonne & Paul Crighton
Chigwell - Michael Kilkenny

Monday 23rd December

Tom Nolan RIP
Shirley Turrell RIP

Tuesday 24th December

3pm Michael Murphy anniversary
6pm Karyn sick
10pm Community and benefactors
People of the parish

Wednesday 25th December

8.30 Allen Charles RIP
10 In memory -
Mary & John Sheehan
11.30 Patricia & Lorenz Koenen RIP
Chigwell - Chevonne Lobo RIP

Thursday 26th December

Croll family
Kathleen McMenemy anniversary

Friday 27th December

Julia Cleary
Maura Clarke RIP

Saturday 28th December

10 In memory - Alice &
James Harris
6 Angela Kirkland anniversary

Sunday 29th December

8.30 Graham McNeil RIP
10 Pat Grant anniversary
11.30 In memory - Paddy & Phil
Callanan
Chigwell – Craig Lobo RIP

Church Cleaning
Saturday 4th January 10.30am
Bernie Siggins, Rachel Woolf &
Kathleen Mahoney

Thursday 9th January 9am
Jackie John, Sue Mansbridge,
Srimathie Cruz, Margaret Parkinson
& Mary Charter

Carol Singing at Whipps X Hospital

On Monday, 23rd Dec. from 5 pm –
7pm starting at the Chapel/Prayer
Space then visiting some of the wards.
Hymn sheets provided. Do join us. It's
all giving and receiving. A blessed
Christmas time with you and all

Bridge Club

If 3 or more respond, we will start a
course for absolute beginners at the
parish bridge club in the New Year.
We meet from 7pm-9pm in the
Henrietta Suite every Thursday.
Others, whatever your level, will also
be made welcome - just turn up.
This is social Bridge, focussed on
improving and enjoying the company.
Questions and responses to
bridgeclub@stthomaswoodford.org
please.

January Date

The next Fairtrade coffee morning will
take place after Friday 10 am Mass on
the 31st of January. Everyone is
welcome.

Pilates with Sandra Dent Open level class

Fridays at 9.30am in the Becket center
£10 payable on a drop in basis.
Please bring a mat. For more
information please contact
[Sandradent@ymail.com](mailto:Sandrudent@ymail.com)
07702319232.